

REMARKS

This submission is in response to the Official Action dated June 6, 2001. Claims 1-13 are pending. Reconsideration of the above identified application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has required election of one of the following group of claims:

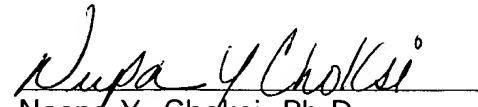
- I: Claims 1-5, drawn to a method of stimulating growth with a polypeptide;
- II: Claims 6-8, drawn to a method of stimulating growth with a nucleic acid or expression stimulating agent;
- III: Claims 9-11, drawn to a polypeptide;
- IV: Claim 12, drawn to a nucleic acid vector; and
- V: Claim 13, drawn to a method of identifying substances.

In the Official Action, the Examiner contends that the inventions are distinct because of various alleged reasons, e.g., the products of Groups III and IV are distinct because they are alternatively composed of nucleic acids and amino acids, and divergent fields of search are required for the respective Groups.

In response to the Requirement for Restriction, Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, to prosecute the claims of Group I (claims 1-5).

Entry of the foregoing remarks into the file history is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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